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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 81**  
**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Rick Miera**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONTINUE THE TASK FORCE**  
**STUDYING THE CHRONIC PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS AND THE**  
**IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS IN NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, approximately thirteen thousand people in New Mexico, including veterans, families with children and persons with disabilities, are homeless at any given date and time; and**

**WHEREAS, it has been found that people who are chronically homeless most often suffer serious mental health and substance use disorders, sometimes identified as co-occurring disorders; and**

**WHEREAS, without proper treatment and support, the chronically homeless are high users of jail, emergency room and other hospital services, causing an undue financial burden of approximately forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per person each**

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1 year to local community service systems, including local  
2 governments; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico is participating in a national policy  
4 academy to address the problem of chronic homelessness and how  
5 to better provide access to mainstream services to the homeless  
6 and to develop state action plans; and

7 WHEREAS, the state agency on aging has unique and valuable  
8 contributions to the task force; and

9 WHEREAS, a state action plan to resolve chronic  
10 homelessness in New Mexico is being created through the  
11 participation of the task force created under Senate Joint  
12 Memorial 52 and House Joint Memorial 82 of the first session of  
13 the forty-sixth legislature, which needs to complete its work;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
16 to continue the task force on homelessness; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging be  
18 included on the task force; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its  
20 findings and recommendations to the governor and the  
21 appropriate interim legislative committee before the first  
22 session of the forty-seventh legislature; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of health.